

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-01-16
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Division of Integrated Health Systems, Family and Children's Health Programs Group, CMSO

October 3, 2003

Bob Sharpe
Deputy Secretary for Medicaid
Florida Medicaid
2727 Mahan Drive, Mailstop #8
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Mr. Sharpe:

I am pleased to inform you that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is approving Florida's request for renewal of its non-emergency transportation waiver program authorized under Section 1915(b)(4) of the Social Security Act (the Act.)

My decision is based on the evidence submitted to CMS demonstrating that the State's proposal is consistent with the purposes of the Medicaid program and will meet all the statutory and regulatory requirements for assuring beneficiaries' access to and quality of services and will be a cost-effective means of providing non-emergency transportation to Florida's Medicaid population. This approval provides for waiver of Section 1902(a)(23) of the Act (Freedom of Choice) to restrict Medicaid beneficiaries' choice to obtain transportation services through Community Transportation Coordinators in each county or multi-county area. Approval also allows the State to claim transportation as an optional medical service, which is matched at the State's higher FMAP rate, rather than as an administrative expense.

The approval period for this waiver is December 4, 2003 through December 3, 2005. Approval is contingent upon the State's meeting the following term and condition:

- The State assures that it will not adopt any policy that will negatively impact the delivery of medically necessary covered services to beneficiaries.

CMS would like to remind the State that the new 1915(b) cost effectiveness test will be required for all subsequent renewals or amendments of this waiver. The State should ensure that it has begun reporting expenditures on the CMS-64 by waiver no later than the quarter ending September 30, 2003.

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Additionally, the State should submit a report of member months by Medicaid Eligibility Group (MEG) for the corresponding quarter to the CMS Regional Office. The State should ensure that its expenditure reporting is consistent with the reporting requirements for the new cost effectiveness test. CMS Central Office and Regional Office staff are available to provide technical assistance in this area, if needed.

Florida may request that this authority be renewed again and should submit its request for the renewal period 90 to 120 days in advance of the expiration date. Florida will continue to be responsible for documenting the cost-effectiveness, access and quality factors in subsequent renewal requests.

We wish you continued success in the operation of the Florida Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation Program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cheryl Brimage in the CMS Atlanta Regional Office at (404) 562-7116 or Claudia Lamm at (410) 786-3421.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Fiore, Director
Division of Integrated Health Systems

cc: Cheryl Brimage, CMS Region IV
DIHS Update Team
FCHPG Web Waiver Team